



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting DRAFT Minutes (SUBJECT TO COUNCIL APPROVAL)
Kingston City Hall Conference Room 1
Date: December 13, 2016 6:30-9:30

Council Members Elizabeth Broad, Lorraine Farina, Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Lynn Johnson, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

Guests: Jeremy Cherson (Riverkeeper), Rebecca Martin, John Mickelson

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The meeting called to order at 6:34PM by the Chairperson.
- II. Minutes:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the November 2016 Meeting Minutes as amended were unanimously approved by the council.
- III. Old Business**
 - A. Pilgrim Pipeline:** DEC Commissioner Policy #29 Environmental Justice (EJ) and Permitting: Special Guests: Rebecca Martin and Jeremy Cherson : Rebecca reported on a recent Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline (CAPP) meeting and environmental justice impact regarding Kingston with respect to DEC Commissioner Policy #29 which refers to public participation with respect to environmental justice. Jeremy Cherson discussed EJ impacts in the south end of Albany and implementation and lack thereof regarding of Commissioner Policy #29 with the Council discussing how Kingston could be affected.
Link to CP 29 for further information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/36951.html>
Upon motion made by Emilie and seconded by Lorraine, the Council unanimously approved drafting a resolution with respect to DEC Policy 29 for submission to the Common Council Public Safety Committee in late December for consideration by the full Common Council at its January meeting.
 - B. NRI/Open Space Project- Special Guest:** John Mickelson, Consultant:
John discussed project goals as follows: (i) an integrated accounting of natural resources within and around Kingston; (ii) combining and collating existing data; (iii) providing the CAC, the City and its partners high quality data and mapping. John continued with an overview to date of the project including: (i) background assessment and review, (ii) compilation of existing mapping and data, updating and organizing and (iii) cataloging geospatial data and maps. Additional maps and updates maps were discussed from the Kingston Online Map Library. A Natural Research Inventory public outreach meeting was scheduled to be held on January 24 at City Hall Kingston. A Google Earth training for City Staff (Planning, DPW, Engineering) and the CAC could be done for no fee at SUNY Ulster Kingston campus, the preferred location, at date and time to be determined in January with the Ulster County mapping offices as an alternative location. Fourth Quarter time reporting is due early January.
 - C. Zoning Code Review discussion:** Kevin recently provided the Council with the zoning document provided previously by the Planning Department concerning Natural Areas and provided an update on review indicating that Pace Law cannot be involved due to contractual issues, however Jennifer Schwartz may be still working on the urban agriculture portion of the zoning which interfaces with the open space and natural resource zoning concerns with a different partner. Emilie has reviewed the document and shared with the council thoughts regarding flood protection, constrained lands, steep slopes and wetlands. Julie has made a list of strategies from the comprehensive plan that could require zoning. Julie, Emilie, and Kevin will

continue reviewing as an action item.

III. New Business

- A. **Alms House/Landmark Place Site Review:** Schematic drawing was reviewed. Casey reported on Planning Board meeting. Suggestion concerning renewables was discussed without motion or resolution. Julie will type up CAC comments and submit to the Planning Board along with the Sustainability Checklist from the Comprehensive Plan as an action item.
- B. **Health Alliance Mary's Ave Campus Additions Site Review:** Documents provided by Planning Dept. were reviewed. Casey reported from the planning board meeting. The Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) is still in progress. No action taken at this time.
- C. **6NYCRR Part 490 Projected Sea Level Rise Review:** Comments on this matter due by December 30, 2016. Julie will submit council comments as an action item. Link for further information is below:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/103870.html>
- D. **2017 Meeting Schedule:** The Council agreed by unanimous acclamation that the 2nd Tuesday of each month shall remain the meeting date for 2017 acknowledging flexibility on dates including, but not limited to, August, November and December.
- E. **CAC Appointments:** Betta, Casey, Emilie and Kevin's appointments are expiring. As an action item, Julie will send the City letters of interest with regards to members wanting to remain on the Council.

IV. **Announcements:** Hudson River Waterfront Alliance events in January 2017 were mentioned.

V. Reports

- 1. **Wood Burning/Air Quality (Lorraine Farina):** Discussion was tabled with no motions or resolutions but with Lorraine providing a written update report to the council attached hereto as Appendices A and B.
- 2. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force (Lorraine Farina):** Next meeting to be held on December 15.
- 3. **Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz):** The Irish Cultural Center was tabled at the planning board pending comments received from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Ulster County Planning Board.
- 4. **Public Safety Liaison (Lynn Johnson):** Lynn discussed Google Earth training with the Common Council Public Safety Committee..
- 5. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission (Julie Noble:)** The meeting was held earlier today. Priorities for the Clean Energy Communities Funding Opportunity were discussed. Expedited solar permits were also discussed with the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairperson present and a communication from SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) presented.

VI. **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison (Emilie Hauser):** A brief discussion resulted in no action items, resolutions or motions.

VII. **Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Lynn and seconded by Casey, the Council members present unanimously moved to adjourn at 9:45pm.

Links to external websites are informational only with no representation by the CAC being made as to content contained therein.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.

APPENDIX A

Lorraine Farina's Report on Wood Burning and Air Quality December 13, 2016

Since our last meeting, I have:

- Met with Casey as a subcommittee regarding the proposed public education meeting. We reviewed the agenda (proposed by Julie). (See "Woodburning Public Education Notes", which I sent to you on October 27.)

- The concern about "discriminating" against woodburning households is misguided, as the evidence is overwhelming that burning wood presents a unique and much more urgent and immediate health risk than other types of pollution. **Any** exposure poses a health risk. A useful chart is produced by Puget Sound Clean Air Agency comparing fine particle emissions from various heat sources: <http://www.familiesforcleanair.org/wood-burning-vs-natural-gas-no-contest/>

- We feel the focus for this education meeting should be on wood burning alone, as above. The brochure produced by CAC should be used as an education tool.

- The UN Environmental Program and Meteorological Organization recommends phasing out all wood burning devices in developed countries in order to reduce global warming (due to black carbon) as well as improve health.

- A question was raised as to what form our CAC action should take:

We feel we should be working toward revising the city code to ban wood burning within the city, with public education ongoing. The current code cannot protect residents from this type of pollution as it relies on opacity, which means smoke must be dense in order for there to be a violation (any detectable airborne wood smoke poses a danger). Even the DEC's measure of 20% opacity has been shown to be useless in protecting people's health, and our own code is less stringent. The code also refers to preventing pollution, but the code is so vague that enforcement is impossible. The science is clear that because of the very nature of wood's components, burning wood produces pollution. Lessening the volume of emissions does not provide protection from health and environmental effects, especially in an urban environment. I will send a proposed new agenda for the education meeting at the end of this document. (SEE APPENDIX B herein)

- Contacted Columbia County Healthy Neighborhood liaison (Jenna Dodge) and director, Jack Mabb to ask about the nature of the program and how Ulster County might apply to join. The program is a NYS grant-funded program that provides in-home assessment of environmental and health risks (including pollutants and air quality health), and provides intervention for helping people mitigate these risks. Ulster is the only county in the local area not participating.

- Researched more possible grant/swap-out funding opportunities.

- Contacted Kristen Wilson to meet to discuss grant to fund hand-held PM 2.5 sensors. She suggested meeting later, as she is engaged with other time-sensitive projects, but in the interim time, I have looked more into grants for low income communities to improve air quality, which I will discuss with her. The third possible funding source to be investigated is NYS Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

- Contacted Central Hudson to see if there are incentives for homeowners to swap out wood burning devices for natural gas. Yes, and these are listed under

<https://www.cenhud.com/simplybetter/rebates>

- Contacted Dirk Felton at NYS DEC, as per referral by Katherine Hoag (senior engineer at the BAAQMD) to discuss the issue with him. No response as yet.

- Contacted Adrienne Esposito (director of Citizens' Coalition for the Environment), who referred me to Bill Cooke, who is the NYS capital region advocate for air quality and is knowledgeable about this issue. He self-identified as a person who has burned wood for 30 years and has been a logger, YET the first thing he said to me was that the science is undeniable: burning wood is an imminent public health threat, and should **never** be done in a town/urban setting, as neighbors cannot protect themselves. He made several important points:

1. It is much more efficient to regulate wood burning at the municipal level, as NYS legislators have vested interest in keeping some devices in use, as they are manufactured in NYS.

2. Kingston is a community with homes very close together, and should therefore move to disallow any woodburning devices. We should use NYC and San Francisco's recent legislation to help make the case.
3. It is important to inventory the number of devices in order to make the case to the Council.
4. Education should focus on children's health, providing ALA facts.

APPENDIX B

Proposed New Agenda for Public Education Meeting on Wood Burning

- Health and Environmental Concerns with wood burning and its unique dangers
- Current Kingston code regarding pollution of the air
- Comparison of relative emissions from differing methods of heating
- Presentation of ways to offset cost of swapping out wood-burning devices (after Kristen Wilson investigates further)
- Outreach/ Marketing:
 - Post CAC brochure at Community Centers, library
 - Post on City website
 - Post brochure on city Facebook
 - Spotlight in Mayor's weekly message